

# Trafford's Biodiversity Action Plan



## Habitat Action Plan

### Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

#### Current Status.

The population of reed bunting is in decline. It is a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

#### National

The decline of the reed bunting is associated with loss of its natural habitat. Wetland sites such as reed beds, and drier farmland areas such as scrub, ditches and hedgerows are declining. The decrease in reed bunting numbers goes hand in hand with the decline of other farmland species that share a similar diet of seeds and insects.

#### Local

The number of reed bunting in Trafford is not known. However, there are some sites that which have the potential to be developed into suitable habitat for these birds.

#### Planning Policy and Legislation

The Reed Bunting is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is listed under Appendix II of the Bern Convention. It is also protected under the EC Birds Directive.

#### Character sites in Trafford

#### Notable Species

Broad Ees Dole  
Jack Lane  
Visitors Centre marsh at Sale  
Carrington Moss

#### Current factors causing loss or decline in Trafford.

- Lack of suitable breeding habitats, especially reed beds with associated scrub and tall herb grassland.
- Increase of urban development resulting in increased pressure from trampling, disturbance and pollution. Reed bunting nests are usually built low down in grass tussocks so they are especially vulnerable to trampling, scrub removal and grassland improvement.
- Loss of hedgerows and wet areas on arable land.

#### Associated Species Action Plans

Bluebell  
Bats  
Bullfinch

#### Associated Habitat Action Plans

Ancient/  
Species Rich  
Hedgerows

Lowland  
wood parks  
and pasture

Roadside  
verges

**Links to other BAPs for further information**

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Cheshire Countdown

UK BAP

**Objectives**

- To raise awareness of the threats to this species and its current decline.
- To promote active management of suitable sites for breeding populations.
- To encourage protection of known breeding sites.
- To increase the number of breeding pairs.

**Local Targets**

- To encourage the monitoring and recording of reed bunting numbers within Trafford.
- To encourage the management of reed beds, hedges, and ditches which provide part of the habitat favoured by reed bunting.
- To raise public awareness of the local importance of this species through relevant activities.
- To work in partnership with other organizations to achieve these goals.

**Current Action.**

Ongoing wetland and scrub management at sites within the Mersey Valley.

Development of ponds and set-aside on farmland in the Bollin Valley.

**Future Action**

- To continue to promote awareness wildlife issues in general and the reed bunting in particular, through leaflets and events.
- Encourage reporting of reed bunting by private individuals.

**References**

House of Commons, Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs. Select Committee. Fifth Report. 1998.

**LBAP Implementers**

National Trust

Shell

RRF

Trafford MBC

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Woodland Trust

FWAG

Local Conservation Groups

Friends Groups and members of the public

Landowners and managers

ReCORd

**Key Contact**

Lindsey Ralston – Nature Development Officer 0161 912 5599

Alan Barton – Environmental Officer – 0161 912 5466

Andy Long – Red Rose Forest – 0161 872 1660

